

- **BC unemployment rate rises to 8.4% in December**
- **One third of victims of violent crime were affected multiple times in 2004**
- **Canadian manufacturers received 2.8% less for their products in November**

## Labour

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate inched higher to 8.4% (seasonally adjusted) in December.** Job growth in British Columbia stalled in December putting upward pressure on the province's unemployment rate as a result of a slight expansion in the size of the province's labour force (+0.1%). The lack of employment growth can be attributed to a reduction in the number of part-time jobs (-7,700), which more than offset the increase in full-time employment (+6,900).

Employment in forestry, fishing & mining dropped (-4.4%) for a second consecutive month. However, an expansion in the number of jobs in the construction (+0.6%), manufacturing (+3.4%) and utilities (+3.6%) industries was sufficient to buoy total employment in the goods sector (+0.8%).

Public administration (-1.9%), finance, insurance & real estate (-2.2%) and education (-2.9%) all saw their workforces thinned in December, putting the brakes on service sector employment (-0.2%). This despite an increased number of jobs in professional, scientific & technical services (+5.9%), accommodation & food (+0.9%), trade (+0.7%) and health care (+0.7%).

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Unemployment rates at the regional level (3-month moving average, unadjusted) ranged from a low of 5.4% in Northeast to a high of 12.0% in Cariboo.** Compared to the same period last year, only Thompson/Okanagan (+3.0%) made any employ-

ment gains. However, despite this growth in the number of jobs, a rapid expansion in the size of the region's labour force (+4.4%) pushed its unemployment rate up to 7.4% (+1.1 percentage points).

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **In December (3-month moving average, unadjusted), only 85% of off-reserve Aboriginals (aged 25 to 64) in BC's labour market had completed high school.** This compares with 93% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. The jobless rate among Aboriginal persons (aged 25 to 64) who had not completed high school was 31%.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Immigrants in BC's labour force are well educated.** In December (3-month moving average, unadjusted), 67% of landed immigrants in B.C.'s labour force (aged 25 to 54) had a post-secondary credential, compared with only 61% of their Canadian born-counterparts.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## 2009 in Review

- **The province saw a total of 54,900 (-2.4%) jobs eliminated by the end of the year with most of those losses in the goods sector where over one in ten (-11.0%) jobs disappeared.** Especially hard-hit were manufacturing (-12.6%) and forestry, fishing & mining (-11.2%), two industries that had already posted substantial job losses during the previous year. Service sector employment remained virtually unchanged in 2009 as workforce reductions in transportation (-10.0%), accommodation & food (-3.4%) and finance, insurance & real estate (-2.8%) were

## Did you know...

Nearly 69,000 British Columbians were living with a form of dementia (such as Alzheimer's disease) in 2008.

*Data Source: Alzheimer Society of British Columbia*

offset by employment gains in health care (+6.0%), trade (+4.0%) and public administration (+3.3%).

*Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

### Education

- **The total number of university graduates in Canada rose from 169,000 to 242,000 between 1992 and 2007.** However, growth in the number of graduates has not been steady. While the number of university graduates increased during the period from 1992 to 1994 (up between 1.9% and 2.9% per year), the period from 1995 to 1999 was marked with either a stagnant or declining number of graduates from year-to-year (growth rates ranging from +0.6 to -3.1% per year). Since 2002, however, growth in the number of students successfully completing their university studies has shown sharp increases each year (ranging from +4.7% to +6.9%).

While women outnumbered men among university graduates throughout the period from 1992 to 2007, the gender gap has continually expanded from 56% in 1992 to 61% by 2007. That said, the sexes were sharply divided by field of study as some programs, such as health (from 72% to 82%) and education (from 73% to 76%), had become increasingly dominated by female graduates while others, such as mathematics and computing (from 35% to 30%) saw their share of female graduates fall.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 81-004-X*

### Crime

- **In 2004, roughly 5% of Canadians reported being the victim of a violent crime.** Out of those 5%, approximately one-third reported being victimized more than once over the previous twelve months. Certain groups are considered to be at greater risk of being the victim of more than one violent crime. For example, those aged 15 to 34 were nearly three times more likely to be the victim of multiple violent crimes than those aged 35 to 54. Marital status also appeared to have been

a factor as single people were four times more likely to be a victim of multiple violent crimes than those that were married. Frequently going out for evening activities, alcohol consumption and Aboriginal status were all factors associated with greater risk for multiple victimization.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 85F0033M*

### The Nation

- **Canadian manufacturers received 2.8% less for their goods in November compared to the same month a year earlier as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI).** While this marks the ninth consecutive year-over-year decline in the IPPI, it was a significantly smaller decrease than the 6.4% drop observed in October. Lower prices for motor vehicles and other transportation equipment (-8.1%) and pulp & paper products (-10.1%) were the main factors in explaining the decline and were more than enough to offset the increased prices for petroleum & coal (+3.5%) and primary metal (+4.6%) products. Also down sharply were prices for BC softwood lumber (-6.4%) and pulpwood chips (-5.3%).

*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 62-011-X*

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## Unionized Employees in British Columbia's Labour Market

### Introduction

When unions go to the bargaining table or take job action, they often make media headlines. Collective bargaining influences wages, hours of work, and working conditions in many B.C. industries. Job action can affect many sectors of the economy, especially when the goods and/or services provided by unionized employees are used as inputs in the production of other goods and services.

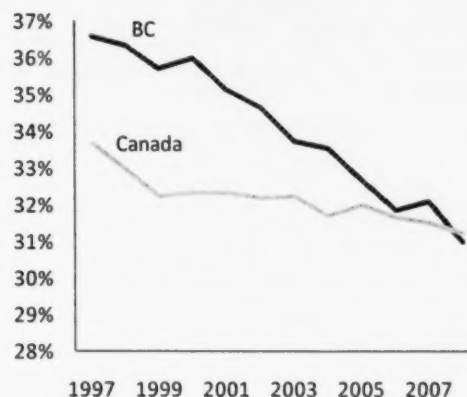
Because collective agreements play an important role in B.C.'s labour market, it is important to form an understanding of the workers covered by collective agreements and the industries in which these employees work.

### How many B.C. employees are covered by a collective agreement?

In 2008, more than half a million employees in British Columbia were part of a union or covered by a collective agreement or union contract. Overall, 31% of B.C. employees were unionized in 2008—the same proportion as the national average<sup>1</sup>. Since 1997, however, the percentage of B.C. employees who are unionized has fallen steadily, from a high of 37% in 1997 to a low of 31% in 2008. Although unionization rates also fell in other provinces during this time period, the rate for B.C. has fallen faster than the national average.

<sup>1</sup> In this article, unionized refers to employees who were members of a union, or who were not members of a union, but were covered by a collective agreement or union contract.

### The proportion of employees who are unionized has been falling steadily



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2008

In 1997, men in British Columbia were more likely to be unionized (38%) than women (34%). As the overall rate of unionization has fallen in recent years, men have been affected more than women, and in 2008, the rate of unionization among women (32%) was actually slightly higher than among men (30%). Up to age 65, unionization rates increase with age: in 2008, only 15% of B.C. youth (aged 15-24) were unionized, compared with 34% of those aged 25-54, and 41% of those aged 55-64.

### Where are unionized workers employed?

Almost half (46%) of unionized workers in B.C. are employed in the private sector, with the other half (54%) employed in the public sector. The rate of unionization, however, is significantly higher in the public sector – in 2008, 75% of public sector workers were unionized, compared with only 18% of private sector employees.

The services-producing sector accounts for 82% of all unionized workers in British Columbia, and just over half of all unionized employees

work in one of three services industries: educational services, health care & social assistance, or public administration.

## Most of B.C.'s unionized employees are employed in the services sector

Industry	Unionized employees
<b>Goods Sector</b>	<b>103,900</b>
Manufacturing	50,400
Other goods industries	53,500
<b>Services Sector</b>	<b>480,700</b>
Health care & social assistance	120,900
Educational services	101,900
Public administration	72,600
Trade	51,900
Transportation & warehousing	51,400
Other service industries	82,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>584,600</b>

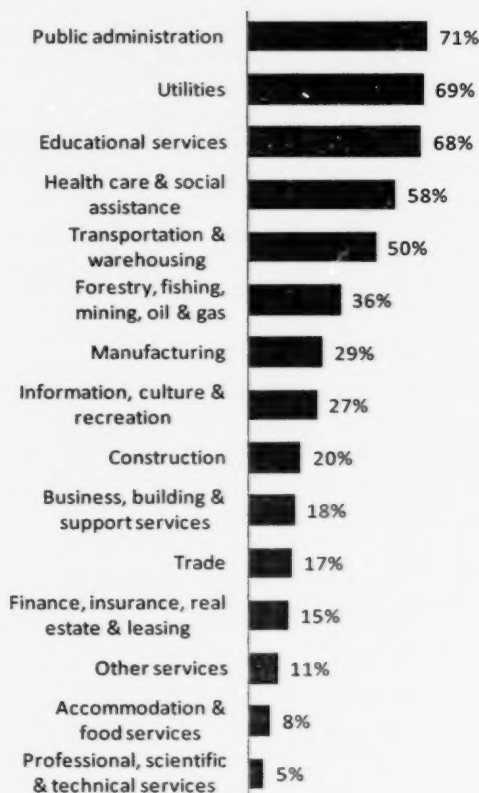
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2008

## What industries are the most heavily unionized?

Workers in B.C.'s goods-producing sector are a little less likely to be unionized than workers in the services-producing sector. Overall, 27% of employees in goods industries were unionized in 2008, compared with 32% of employees in service industries. Within the goods sector, however, the utilities industry is heavily unionized: 69% of employees in this industry were unionized in 2008.

In the services sector, the most heavily unionized industries in 2008 were: public administration (71%), educational services (68%), health care & social assistance (58%), and transportation & warehousing (50%).

## B.C.'s public sector industries have the highest proportion of unionized employees



Note: Data for agriculture is not available

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2008

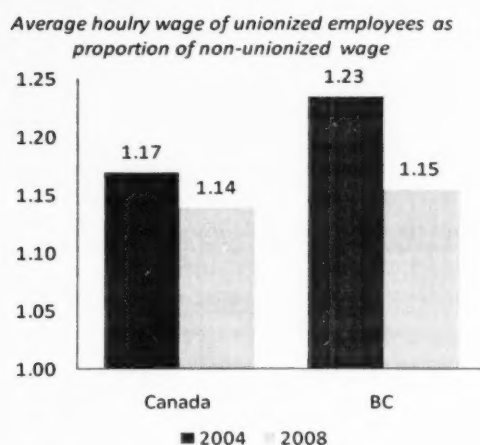
In most industries, B.C.'s unionization rates are similar to the national industry averages. However, in 2008, three B.C. industries had unionization rates that were notably higher than the national industry average: fishing, mining oil & gas (+12 percentage points), transportation & warehousing (+8 ppts), and finance, insurance, real estate & leasing (+5 ppts). In fact, the unionization rate in B.C.'s transportation and warehousing industry (50%) was among highest in the country, second only to Newfoundland and Labrador (51%).

Only one of B.C.'s industries, construction, had a unionization rate that was notably lower than the national average (-12 ppts). However, the proportion of unionized employees in B.C.'s construction industry (20%) was very similar to that of the other western provinces: Alberta (20%), Saskatchewan (19%), and Manitoba (24%). The national average construction unionization rate (32%) was significantly higher as a result of the high rate in Quebec (58%).

## How much do unionized employees earn?

Unionized employees (aged 25-54) in British Columbia earned, on average, 15% more than non-unionized employees in 2008<sup>2</sup>. The average hourly wage of B.C.'s unionized employees (aged 25-54) was \$25.57, compared to \$22.14 for employees not covered by union agreements.

## B.C.'s unionized employees earned 15% more than non-unionized employees in 2008



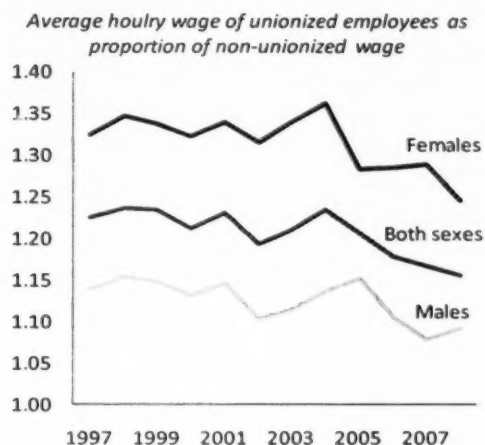
Note: Data is shown for population aged 25-54  
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

<sup>2</sup> Not standardized for differences in industrial composition. Youth (age 15-24) have been excluded from this discussion because they are less likely to be covered by a collective agreement and also have lower earning potential due to lack of education and experience.

A few years ago, the wage premium received by unionized employees in B.C. was higher than the national average, but as wages of non-unionized employees have risen faster than those of unionized employees, this differential has been eroded. In 2008, B.C.'s unionized employees received a wage premium only slightly higher than the national average.

The wage premium received by unionized employees is higher for B.C. women than for men; in 2008, women (aged 25-54) earned 24% more than if they were part of a union, while unionized men earned only 9% more than non-unionized men. Among both sexes, however, the gap between union and non-union wages has been shrinking in recent years.

## The gap between earning of union and non-union employees is greater for women than for men



Note: Data is shown for population aged 25-54  
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey





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BC at a glance . . .			
POPULATION (thousands)			% change on
		Jul1/2009	one year ago
BC		4,455.2	1.6
Canada		33,739.9	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Revised Nov 9)			% change on
(BC - at market prices)		2008	one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)		197,931	3.3
GDP (\$ 2002 millions)		164,520	0.0
GDP (\$ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)		37,529	-1.7
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 2002 per Capita)		25,931	3.2
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)			% change on
			prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Oct		2,794	0.8
Merchandise Exports - Oct		1,952	3.2
Retail Sales - Oct		4,659	1.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Nov 2009)		one year ago	% change
BC		0.1	0.0
Vancouver		0.2	0.2
Victoria		0.0	0.2
Canada		1.0	0.3
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)			% change on
(seasonally adjusted)		Dec '09	prev. month
Labour Force - BC		2,476	0.1
Employed - BC		2,266	0.0
Unemployed - BC		209	2.0
			Nov '09
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)		8.4	8.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)		8.5	8.5
INTEREST RATES (percent)		Jan 6/2010	Jan 7/2009
Prime Business Rate		2.25	3.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year		3.60	5.60
- 5 year		5.49	6.75
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		Jan 6/2010	Jan 7/2009
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$ per US \$		1.0334	1.1853
(closing rate) US \$ per Cdn \$		0.9685	0.8354
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE			% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)		Dec '09	one year ago
BC		815.03	2.3
Canada		811.07	1.9
SOURCES:			
Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade,		} Statistics Canada	
Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate			
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics			
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see <a href="http://www.bankofcanada.ca">www.bankofcanada.ca</a>			

## Aboriginal Peoples Profiles - BC

Province-level profiles have been added to this series. These profiles provide comparisons of the socio-economic conditions of the Aboriginal populations as well as profiles of Aboriginal groups such as First Nations, Métis, and Status Indians using data from the 2006 Census.

[www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/abor/ap\\_main.asp](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/abor/ap_main.asp)

## Population Estimates 2009

Population estimates by municipality, regional districts and development regions are now available for 2009.

[www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/estpop.asp](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/estpop.asp)

## Historical Census Profiles

We have added detailed profiles for regional districts, municipalities, unincorporated areas and Indian reserves from the 1996 and 1991 censuses. Registration is required for access.

[www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/census.asp](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/census.asp)

## Population Highlights - NEW

Population Highlights is a new BC Stats periodical that replaces both Migration Highlights and Immigration Highlights. This release provides detailed current information on population flows between British Columbia and other provinces/territories and the rest of the world, as well as other components of population change. Also, a feature article provides additional analysis on a topic of interest related to migration or immigration issues.

[www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr\\_pop.asp](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr_pop.asp)

## Released this week by BC Stats

- Labour Force Statistics, December 2009
- Earnings & Employment Trends, Dec. 2009

## Next week

- Exports, November 2009